REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the Official Action of August 9th, 2007 and for the Advisory Action of November 28, 2007. The previous response filed was not entered and therefore, this Request for Continued Examination and submission is submitted along with the attached amendment and is intended to be fully responsive to the Advisory Action and to fulfill all the requirements for an RCE submission.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

1. Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 61-24121 in view of Ballew (US 3,905,118), and further in view of Aksamit (US 4,440,045).

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner states that Ballew discloses a file guide having diverging walls to form a pair of opposed wall faces forming an X-shape as seen in plain view.

Ballew shows that a file guide has a pair of opposed wall faces forming an X-shape in plain view. However, the length of the wall faces to fit along a saw chain is short, and also, the wall faces have a configuration in which only one wall face presses against a saw chain. Furthermore, the file guide of Ballew is placed on a cutting link to be sharpened during use.

As shown in FIG.8 of the present application, a saw chain 30 of the chainsaw has an endless shape and is mounted on the periphery edge of a guide bar 40. Since the saw chain 30 is smoothly rotated at a high speed by an engine, it easily wobbles laterally (regarding the chainsaw and the guide bar, refer to the attached FIG.A).

Accordingly, even if the file guide of Ballew is placed on a cutter blade with one hand so that one wall face presses against the saw chain, it is not easy to stabilize the posture of the file guide, and hence, it is not easy to conduct highly precise sharpening.

Moreover, in Ballew, even if one side of a bottom surface 10b of the file guide is

placed on a cutting link to be sharpened and the other side of the bottom surface 10b is placed on a chain adjacent to the cutting link to be sharpened, the posture of the cutting link is unstable, and therefore, it is not easy to stabilize the posture of the file guide.

In sharpening of a cutter blade (cutting link), if the cutter blade is not stabilized in a good posture, it wobbles when contacting with a file guide rotating at a high speed. As a result, the cutter blade is made to be blunt. Furthermore, if the cutter blade is sharpened in a right-leaning or left-leaning posture, the right and left cutter blades are made to be unequal in size and edge, and hence, a resulting chainsaw is unable to cut a thick tree in a straight line. Moreover, wobbling of the cutter blade during sharpening causes damage to the file surface and requires replacement of the file.

On the other hand, in a chainsaw sharpener of the present invention, as shown in FIG.7A and FIG.10A, each of branch faces 80a, 80c or 80d, 80b of a guide body 8 extends laterally long enough to be placed on cutter blades 31 or 32 adjacent to both sides of a cutter blade 31 or 32 to be sharpened. Therefore, the guide body 8 can be stably placed on the saw chain 30. In this regard, the chainsaw sharpener of the present invention is substantially different from the file guide of Ballew and from contact plates 16 of JP 61-24121 in terms of shape and effects. Applicant respectfully submits the amendment along with the remarks to clarify the description of the stable posture of the guide body.

2. In the Final Office Action, the Examiner asserts that to provide side wall faces on the lower surface of the guide body to aid in aligning a grinding tool with respect to the chainsaw blade would have been obvious in view of Ballew.

As described above, however, since the file guide of Ballew presses against the side face of the unstable chain, it is not easy to stabilize the posture of the file guide and conduct highly precise sharpening of a cutter blade.

On the other hand, in the chainsaw sharpener of the present invention, as shown in FIGs.7A, 8, 10A, and 11, since wall surfaces 81a-81d press against a stable guide bar 40, the posture of a guide body 8 is stabilized. As a result, the posture of a grinding

tool is stabilized, which makes it possible to conduct highly precise sharpening. Accordingly, the chainsaw sharpener of the present invention is substantially different from the file guide of Ballew in terms of structure and effects (the attached FIG.B and FIG.C show that without the wall surfaces 81a - 81d and the upper plate face 80, cutter blades 31 and 32 would wobble).

3. In the Final Office Action, the Examiner states that Aksamit discloses a chainsaw sharpener having guide wall faces which are pressed against a guide bar of the chainsaw so as to stabilize a sharpening tool during use, and also states that to simply extend depending side wall faces on a chainsaw sharpening tool of JP 61-24121 to contact with the chainsaw guide bar in order to stabilize the sharpening tool during use, for more precise sharpening of cutting edges, would have been obvious in view of Aksamit.

A fixture 17 of Aksamit can be stably placed on cutting links adjacent to both sides of a cutting link to be sharpened, and furthermore, has a structure in which inner surfaces 22 and 24 of side walls 14 and 16 sandwich a guide bar 66. Therefore, the posture of the fixture 17 can be stabilized. However, nothing is provided for stabilizing the posture of the cutting link to be sharpened. As stated above, the saw chain mounted on the guide bar easily wobbles laterally. Accordingly, when the file rotating at a high speed contacts with the cutting link to be sharpened, the cutting link wobbles or tilts, which makes highly precise sharpening impossible.

On the other hand, in the chainsaw sharpener of the present invention, as described above, the posture of the guide body 8 can be stabilized, and also, the guide portion 87 of the guide body presses a cutter blade 31 or 32 to be sharpened from above so as to stabilize the posture of the cutter blade 31 or 32 (the cutter blades 31 and 32 are alternately positioned on the saw chain 30). Therefore, wobbling or tilting is not caused even when the grinding tool 7 contacts with the cutter blade 31 or 32. In this regard, the guide body 8 of the chainsaw sharpener of the present invention is substantially different from the fixture 17 of Aksamit in terms of structure and effects.

4. As stated above, the chainsaw sharpener of the present invention has such a structure that, for example, when the cutter blade 31 is sharpened, the guide body 8 is stably placed on the cutter blades 32 adjacent to both sides of the cutter blade 31, and furthermore, the wall surfaces 81a-81d presses against the stable guide bar 40 (see FIG.7A). Moreover, the guide portion 87 of the guide body 8 stabilizes the posture of the cutter blade 31 or 32 to be sharpened.

Thus, in order to sharpen a saw chain with high precision, there is required an effect obtained by combining the effect of stabilizing the posture of the guide body 8, and the effect of stabilizing a cutting link (cutter blade) to be sharpened by preventing it from wobbling or tilting.

However, each of the chainsaw sharpener of Aksamit, the file guide of Ballew, and the apparatus for grinding a cutting blade for a chainsaw of JP61-24121 can realize only one of the two effects, and cannot realize both effects concurrently. Furthermore, each of these cited references fails to suggest or teach the effect obtained by combining the two effects.

In this regard, it is clear that the present invention has novelty and inventive step.

5. The Examiner seems not to consider one of the significant features of the present invention, which is recited in claim 1 as "wherein provided on inside or side of the exposure portion is a guide portion for pressing, from above, the cutter blade to be sharpened so as to prevent the cutter blade from wobbling or tilting, and further to define an accurate cutting edge angle".

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the above-described Applicant's arguments and to allow this application.

Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1 recites statutory subject matter that is novel and new, is subject matter of the present invention

and is fully supported in the disclosure of the present invention, and therefore respectfully requests that Claim 1 be found allowable and that this application be passed to issue. No new matter has been included.

If for any reason, the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper has not been timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 50-2069, **referencing docket number 054-602**.

Respectfully submitted,

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